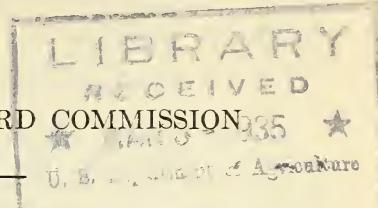


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REPORT OF MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION TRANSMITTING REPORT OF THE LATTER COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1934

FEBRUARY 20, 1935.—Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and ordered to be printed

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, February 19, 1935.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the act of Congress approved February 18, 1929 (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, suppl., ch. 7a), I present herewith report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1934.

Respectfully,

H. A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Chairman Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

REPORT OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1934

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act (45 Stat. 1222; U. S. Code, suppl., ch. 7a) has been in effect for 5 years. That legislation made financial provision for a refuge acquisition program extending over a period of 10 years and authorized annual appropriations aggregating \$7,875,000. The authorizations for the 5 years that have elapsed were \$2,875,000, but only \$1,082,525 of this has been made available.

Previous reports have set out the accomplishments with the money made available under the provisions of this act for the acquisition of lands for refuge purposes, the summary of which will be found in the tabular statement on page 3.

STATUS OF PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1934

The funds provided for the fiscal year 1934 were sufficient only to maintain a materially reduced personnel, which was occupied in the consummation of the acquisition of lands that had previously been approved for purchase by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, and in dealing with such matters as continued to arise with

reference to the program. With no money with which to purchase lands, the program looking to an extension of the refuge system by purchase was brought to a standstill. Activities of the year, however, resulted in the designation by Executive order of two wildlife refuges.

REFUGES ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER

Railroad Valley Migratory Bird Refuge, Nevada.—Previously temporarily withdrawn, the Railroad Valley Migratory Bird Refuge, Nevada, was constituted a permanent refuge by Executive order dated May 2, 1934. With allotments made available from emergency funds, an artesian water supply has been developed, thereby improving the refuge and creating a resting and feeding place for the myriads of waterfowl traversing that area.

Killcohook Migratory Bird Refuge, New Jersey and Delaware.—The Killcohook Migratory Bird Refuge, an area of 1,440 acres of land and water on the eastern shore of the Delaware River, in New Jersey and Delaware, was established by Executive order dated February 3, 1934. This area is ideally situated to serve as an inviolate resting and feeding place for ducks and geese in migration.

Since the lands in these two refuges were in public ownership, no monetary consideration was involved except for salaries and expenses for personnel engaged in preliminary investigations, the labor incident to the accumulation of necessary data with regard to the status of the land, and the cadastral surveys made for defining the boundaries.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

No funds were made available for the expenses of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission during the year. Of the \$89,525 available to the Biological Survey under the appropriation for migratory-bird conservation refuges, \$35,350 was expended for the employment and travel expenses of personnel engaged on the examination of suitable areas and for purchase negotiations, title examinations, topographic, cadastral, improvement surveys, and for map making. Of this amount, \$23,126 covered the administration of refuges, investigation of food resources, and investigations of wildlife diseases. The balance of this appropriation was contributed to the savings program inaugurated by the Bureau of the Budget.

CONCLUSIONS

It will be of interest to those concerned about remedial measures for the conservation of migratory waterfowl that during the latter months of this fiscal year \$6,000,000 was made available from several emergency appropriations with which to further the migratory-bird refuge program, and an additional \$2,500,000 was put at the disposal of the Biological Survey for the development of new refuges being acquired with the emergency money and for work deemed necessary on existing refuges. The great mass of data that has been heretofore assembled on suitable areas for migratory-bird refuge purposes under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program made a very substantial contribution to this emergency program. It has been largely due to the basic data gathered on locations of suitable sites, the detailed examinations, and to the appraisals for the purpose of determin-

ing equitable prices and ownership of areas, that this emergency program looking to the acquisition of additional refuges has succeeded in making such substantial progress.

TABLE 1.—*Refuge areas acquired and approved for acquisition under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act program to June 30, 1934*

State and county	Refuge	Areas approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for purchase and lease-purchase			Other areas acquired	Total
		Acquired by purchase	Pending title conveyance under purchase agreement	Total		
Alaska	Semidi Islands					
Arizona, Mohave	Boulder Canyon. (<i>See also</i> Nevada.)				1 8,920 312,687	8,920 312,687
California, Imperial	Salton Sea	8,982		8,982	1 36,578 1 586	45,560 586
Delaware, Newcastle	Killcohook. (<i>See also</i> New Jersey.)					
Florida:						
Levy	Cedar Keys				1 224	224
Hernando	Chinsegut Hill				2,033	2,033
Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla.	St. Marks	19,313		19,313	116,298	35,611
Georgia, McIntosh	Wolf Island				1 538	538
Maine, Knox	Widows Island				3 12	12
Maryland, Dorchester	Blackwater	8,241		8,241		8,241
Montana, Cascade and Choteau.	Benton Lake				1 12,235	12,235
Nebraska, Garden	Crescent Lake	40,609		40,609	1 173	40,782
Nevada:						
Clark	Boulder Canyon. (<i>See also</i> Arizona.)				1 346,443	346,443
Churchill	Fallon				1 17,902	17,902
Nye	Railroad Valley				1 135,184	135,184
New Jersey, Salem	Killcohook. (<i>See also</i> Delaware.)				1 854	854
New Mexico, Chaves	Roswell				1 1,962	1,962
North Carolina, Hyde	Swanquarter	15,341	151	15,492		15,492
North Dakota, Burleigh and Kidder.	Long Lake	5,292		5,292	1 4 1,810	7,102
Oklahoma, Alfalfa	Salt Plains				1 19,452	19,452
South Carolina, Charleston.	Cape Romain	22,452		22,452	1 8 31,613	54,065
Utah, Box Elder	Locomotive Springs				1 1,013	1,013
Washington, Grant	Lenore Lake				1 4,682	4,682
Wyoming:						
Albany	Bamforth Lake	965		965	1 4 1,199	2,164
Do.	Hutton Lake	1,248		1,248	1 4 460	1,708
Total		122,443		151	122,594	952,858
						1,075,452

¹ By Executive order or proclamation.

² By gift.

³ By act of Congress.

⁴ By lease without option to purchase; acquisition approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

⁵ By cession.

